

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 02870 111222Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 EB-08 INR-10 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 CA-01
SCS-06 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 AID-05
DLOS-09 OES-07 IO-13 /107 W
-----080678 111351Z /45

R 110540Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: REFUGEES AID VESSEL-IN-DISTRESS

1. OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO DEPT. AND INFO ADDRESSEES,
H.M.A.S. DERWENT, WHILE CRUISING IN MALAYSIAN WATERS,
ENCOUNTERED SMALL TAIWANESE VESSEL-IN-DISTRESS VICINITY
STRAITS OF MALACCA.

2. RESPONDING TO ROCKET SIGNALS DERWENT CAME ALONGSIDE
TO AID ROC VESSEL. CHINESE SKIPPER RELATED TO AUSTRALIANS
THAT HIS VESSEL HAD BEEN ADRIFT WITH ENGINE TROUBLE FOR
MORE THAN THREE DAYS. DURING THAT TIME, FOR THREE DAYS
AND THREE NIGHTS, VESSEL FIRED DISTRESS SIGNALS TO NO AVAIL.
SHIPS PASSED BY IGNORING PLIGHT OF CHINESE VESSEL.

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3. OUT OF FOOD AND LOW ON WATER CHINESE VESSEL WAS FINALLY
APPROACHED BY A SMALL, OVERCROWDED BOAT WHICH OFFERED
ASSISTANCE. VIETNAMESE REFUGEES GAVE TAIWANESE A SACK
OF RICE AND WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT, ALL THEY COULD OFFER,
AND THEN PROCEEDED SOUTH.

4. BOTH CINESE AND AUSTRALIANS CHAGRINED BY INCIDENT. WHAT,
THEY ASKED EACH OTHER, HAS BECOME OF THE LAW OF THE SEA?

5. REPORT PER TELECON WITH AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION 11
APRIL 1978.
MILLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RELIEF
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 apr 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Expiration:
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ISecure: 1
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Line Count: 68
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 484820b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: REFUGEES AID VESSEL-IN-DISTRESS
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To: STATE
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Declassified/Released
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